



St Francis' Catholic Primary School  
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8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Gospel Reading Mark 10:2-16**

<sup>2</sup> Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

<sup>3</sup> "What did Moses command you?" he replied.

<sup>4</sup> They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

<sup>5</sup> "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. <sup>6</sup> "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.'<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup> 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>8</sup> and the two will become one flesh.'<sup>[c]</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

<sup>10</sup> When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. <sup>11</sup> He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. <sup>12</sup> And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

### *The Little Children and Jesus*

<sup>13</sup> People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."<sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." <sup>16</sup> And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Why does Mark say they tested him by asking? Why does Jesus only give the detailed answer when he is back safely in the house with the disciples? Jesus of course can spot the trap a mile off; but he loses no integrity in how he deals with it. Everyone knows someone who is going through, or has just gone through, the break-up of a marriage or relationship. It was a challenge then and is still the case now. We pray that the Holy Spirit guides and supports families in all of the challenges that modern day living brings us.

### **Black History Celebrations**

We will begin our Black History Weeks celebration from today Monday, 8th October 2018 to Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October. This year we will be looking great African civilizations including Mali, Egypt and Benin. We will have a variety of activities for the children including assemblies, focused art work and day of traditional African singing with the Voices Foundation. **We have a special workshop for parents to look at *How Black ethnic identity raises educational achievement for Black students on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> October at 9:15 and 5:30; a separate letter was sent out about this last week.***



Newham London

Headteacher: Ms Natasha Scott



In addition on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> October at 2:45 we will be having a music concert based on workshops that the children will be taking part in throughout the day that show a range of traditional African and Gospel Music. All parents are warmly invited to attend this concert in the school hall.

### **Feast of St Francis**

We enjoyed a fantastic Feast Day on Thursday with a beautiful Mass led by Fr Michael O'Grady; our usual ice-lolly treat for the children and a day filled with activities that helped to develop the children's understanding of Francis and the impact that he has had on the lives of so many people.

### **Assembly**

There will be a class assembly for 5K on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 9:05 am; parents with children in this class are warmly welcome.

### **Half Term Break**

The school will be closed for the half term break starting from Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018. We will re-open as normal on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Afterschool Clubs**

The letters for the new afterschool clubs were sent out recently. The new clubs will begin on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Parents' Conference Meetings**

We will be holding parents conference meetings for years 1-6 on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The letter to book an appointment for these meetings will be sent home shortly.

### **Annual Consent Form**

If you have not already done so please return your child's annual consent forms for the 2018-2019 school year; this allows your child to go on visits in the local area. Please sign this form and return it to school as soon as possible.

N. Scott  
Head Teacher

